REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-40 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 18, 35-37, and 39-40 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 18, and 37.

Claims 12 and 29 are amended in the reply to recite proper antecedent basis. Claims 36 and 39 are also amended in this reply in accordance with the Examiner's suggested language to ensure consideration as proper statutory subject matter. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, support for which may be found in independent claims 1 and 18 (for claims 12 and 29) and in the original claim language of claims 36 and 39.

Objection(s)

The specification is objected to for referencing an incorrect figure. The specification has been amended in this reply to correct the erroneous reference to a Fig. 31 flowchart. The flowcharts of Figs. 32 and 33 are now properly referenced instead. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to for typographical errors in the reference numbers in Fig. 25. Fig. 25 has been amended in this response to correct the reference numbers. No

new matter has been added by way of this amendment and support for the corrected reference numbers may be found at least in the first full paragraph on page 34 of the application as filed. The drawings were also objected to for failing to show certain reference numbers that appeared on pages 38-39 of the specification. The specification has been amended to correct the reference numbers and the corrected reference numbers do appear in the application figures. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 12 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite due to insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 12 and 29 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 101

Claims 36 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 36 and 39 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claim 37 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by European Patent No. EP 0827106, issued to Inamine ("Inamine"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 37 recites a printing method wherein a host device sends first print setting information to a printer and then sends print object data to the printer in accordance with a print object data request sent from the printer that is based on the first print setting information. In contrast to the method recited in claim 37, Inamine discloses only that print object data Da and environment data Db are input from a personal computer to an interface system. Inamine fails to suggest or disclose that a print object data request is sent from a printer based on a first print setting information. For at least this reason, claim 37 is patentable over Inamine. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1, 18, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,411,396, issued to Benson et al. ("Benson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,552,743, issued to Rissman ("Rissman"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 18, and 36 require first print setting information or command data that is sent from a host device. These claims further require the requesting of print object data designated by first print setting information from the host device. In contrast, Benson and Rissman do not suggest or disclose print engine specific data based on data sent from a host device. As the Examiner notes on page 5 of the Office Action, Benson does not disclose the requesting of print object data. Furthermore, Rissman neither suggests nor

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discloses the requesting of print object data from a host device, *as designated by first print setting information*. Although Rissman may instruct a device such as a digital camera to transmit a frame of digital image data, this is not the same as requesting print object data as required by the instant claims. Instead, the data requested by Rissman is digital image data that may require conversion to a predetermined image format for printing and is used to display the image for modification, prior to printing (Col. 3, ll. 25-35). Such digital image data *is not print engine specific* as required by the instant claims. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 18, and 36 are patentable over the combination of Benson and Rissman. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-15 and 19-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Benson in view of Rissman, and further in view of Inamine. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As previously discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 1, 18, and 36, neither Benson nor Rissman disclose print engine specific data, or the requesting of such print engine specific data from a host device. Inamine also fails to disclose such print engine specific data, or the requesting of such print engine specific data from a host device, and therefore fails to disclose that which Benson and Rissman lack. Claims 2-15 and 19-32, which depend from claims 1 and 18, respectively, also include these same limitations. Therefore, claims 2-15 and 19-32 are patentable over the combination of Benson, Rissman, and Inamine for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claims 16-17 and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Benson in view of Rissman, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,800,073, issued to Matsuda ("Matsuda"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As previously discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 18, from which claims 16-17 and 33-34 depend, neither Benson nor Rissman disclose print engine specific data, or the requesting of such print engine specific data from a host device. Matsuda also fails to disclose such print engine specific data, or the requesting of such print engine specific data from a host device, and therefore fails to disclose that which Benson and Rissman lack. Because dependent claims 16-17 and 33-34 also include these same limitations, these claims are patentable over the combination of Benson, Rissman, and Matsuda for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 35 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Benson in view of Inamine. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 35 recites a printer having first storage means for storing characteristic information, second storage means for storing print setting information, reception means for receiving first print setting information from a host device, setting means for converting the first print setting information into second print setting information based on the stored characteristic information, and wherein the print object data sent from the host device is printed based on the second print setting information. Method claims 38-40 require the use of print engine specific command data from a host device on which the print setting information is based.
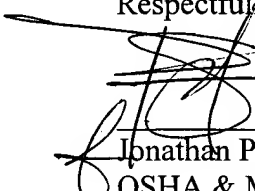
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As previously discussed, Benson fails to disclose print engine specific data, or the requesting of such print engine specific data from a host device. Inamine also fails to suggest or disclose that a print object data request is sent from a printer based on a first print setting information, or that print object data sent from the host device is printed based on a second print setting information. For at least these reasons, claims 35 and 38-40 are patentable over this combination of prior art references. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783.016001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/21/04

Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986
OSHA & MAY L.L.P.
One Houston Center, Suite 2800
1221 McKinney Street
Houston, TX 77010
Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778

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